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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 742



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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ETHIOPIAN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT--Niger and Ethiopia recently concluded an air transport agreement at Niamey whereby, as of next October, Ethiopian Airlines will open a route linking Addis Ababa, Khartoum, Kano, Niamey, Bamako and Dakar. At the same time, Air Africa, the international company of which Niger is a member, will inaugurate a Dakar-Djeddah link. /Text7 /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1867 21 Aug 81 p 21647 /COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981/7 9434

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION LEADER'S DEBTS—A record of the debts contracted by the Central African opposition leader Ange Patasse with some banks and companies was sent to Paris in late August by a French colonel attached to the Bangui branch of the Center for the Exploitation of Military Intelligence [CERM]. According to this record, the leader of the Central African People's Liberation Movement [MLPC] reportedly owes nearly 250 million CFA francs to the Central Investment Bank in Bangui and nearly 13 million to the Franco-Central African Tobacco Company [FCAT]. The latter, of whose board of directors Patasse was chairman, is a joint company with the participation of the French Service for the Industrial Exploitation of Tobacco and Matches [SEITA]. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French No 1078, 2 Sep 81 p 42] [COPYRIGHT: Jeune Afrique GRUPJIA 1981]

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CHAD

KAMOUGUE REPORTS ARMY MUTINIES

JN142145 London REUTER in English 2125 GMT 14 Sep 81

[Report by Stephen Powell]

[Text] Moundou, Chad, 14 Sep (REUTER)—A series of army mutinies has rocked the south of Chad this month and the country's vice-president says he suspected Libya of fomenting the uprisings.

Libyan troops have been stationed in the northern half of strife-torn Chad since late last year but have not so far penetrated to the non-Muslim south.

Vice-president Wadal Abdel Kader Kamougue, a southerner, told REUTERS in an interview in Moundou yesterday that he suspected Libya of having a hand in a wave of army pay revolts. But he stopped short of accusing Tripoli of being behind the revolts. The soldiers have not received a regular salary since civil war broke out in the capital, Ndjamena, in February 1979.

Over the last 2 weeks, mutinies have hit the southern towns of Moundou, Doba, Sarh and Koumra. Colonel Kamougue acknowledged that the authorities had been powerless to quell the uprisings. He said the soldiers had seized government funds, detained army officers and government officials and in some instances assaulted them.

Colonel Kamougue denied that he himself had been detained in Moundou earlier this month. Informed church sources, in direct contact with members of the gendarmerie, said the vice-president had spent one night in prison at the beginning of the month and several days afterwards under house arrest.

The most spectacular revolt broke out on 9 September when truckloads of soldiers, firing automatic rifles and bazookas into the air, took over the southern town of Sarh, the third largest in Chad. They seized government officials, army officers and requisitioned government funds.

Colonel Kamougue said no deaths had been reported anywhere in the south, but he added that the situation remained delicate. "It is delicate. We must find a solution. The soldiers must understand that there is no money."

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Libya recently signed an agreement to lend Chad money to pay the salaries of civil servants for 1 month, he said. But no provision was made to pay a full salary to the troops.

Colonel Kamougue said he could not put a figure on the amount of money the troops had taken. Informed sources said the troops had seized 37 million CFA francs (\$130,000) from the government treasury in Sarh, 39 million francs (\$138,000) in Koumra and at least 22 million francs (\$78,000) in Moundou.

The revolts, which began in Moundou at the beginning of September, were accompanied by reports circulating among residents that the government of the southern zone, the 12-man permanent committee, had embezzled public funds. Colonel Kamougue said "some bizarre situations" had arisen in the region's finances and that there had been some embezzlement.

Southern Chad has so far remained relatively sheltered from the devastating effects of the recent civil war. The zone has set up its own de facto administration, the permanent committee, which runs the five southern prefectures.

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CONGO

BRIEFS

EIGHTH AGPAOC CONFERENCE—The eighth conference of the Management Association of the Ports of West and Central Africa [AGPAOC], which concluded on 7 September in Pointe—Noire, was in particular devoted to the development of maritime transport, the adaptation of port installations to new traffic conditions and the problems of transport of the exports and imports of the member countries of the association. It should be noted, in another connection, that the traffic of the seaport of Pointe—Noire totaled 7,052,000 tons for 1980, the director general of the port announced. He stated that studies will be undertaken in 1982 to permit the specialization of the port in three sectors (commercial, industrial, and petroleum export area). [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1870 11 Sep 81 p 2338] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981]

UNDP, FAO AGREEMENTS—The Congo, on the one side, the UN Development Program [UNDP] and the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], on the other side, signed on 2 September in Brazzaville an agreement providing assistance to the Coffee and Cacao Office [OCC] in organizing support and staffing services. It should be called to mind moreover that four agreements totaling \$301,000 were signed recently in Brazzaville by the Congo on the one side and the UNDP and FAO on the other side. These agreements deal with the study of the question of food self-sufficiency, prevention of post harvest losses, establishment of a national soil service, and training in the biological struggle against cochineal insects. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1870 11 Sep 81 p 2338] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981]

LUMBER FAIR'S PROGRAM——In October, unless there are last minute changes, the Lumber Fair organized by the Congolese Lumber Office 13-17 October will take place as follows: -13 October 1981: Opening of Forestry and Lumber Days at Loubomo (Fun Fair). -14, 15 October 1981: Talke on tropical lumber in Brazzaville. -16 October 1981: Seminar on the classification of African sawn timber in Brazzaville. -17 October 1981: Overflight by aircraft (Fokker 28) of the immense forest reserves of Likoula and Sangha (northern Congo) regions. -Closing of the event. This fair is to be participated in by all the national lumber federations of the UCBT [expansion unknown], operators (manufacturers, businessmen), importers of tropical lumber, countries producing tropical lumber in Africa and the African Lumber Organization [OAB]. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1870 11 Sep 81 p 2338] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981]

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PETROBRAS IN HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION--The Federal Republic of Brazil and the Congo just signed at Brazzaville, on 14 August, a protocol of agreement regarding the participation of Petrobras (a Brazilian semipublic company) in the search for liquid and gas hydrocarbons in the Congo. $\sqrt{\text{Text}7}$ Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1867 21 Aug 81 p 21717 COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 19817 9434

FRENCH FINANCING AGREEMENTS--Three financing conventions, totaling 550 million CFA francs, were signed between France and the Congo, it was announced at Brazzaville on 14 August. They deal with the development of small-scale agricultural mechanization, a seed program and the acquisition of a passenger boat to service the Congolese basin in the north of the country. $\sqrt{\text{Text}7}$ $\sqrt{\text{Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS}}$ in French No 1867 21 Aug 81 p 21717 $\sqrt{\text{COPYRICHT:}}$ Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 19817 9434

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GAMBIA

WAYS TO ESTABLISH SENE-GAMBIAN UNION EXAMINED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French No 1.076-1077, 19-26 Aug 81 pp 22-23

[Article by Thomas R. Kanza: "On Sene-Gambia"]

[Text] In principle, the return of Sir Dawda Jawara to Banjul (Gambia) marks the failure of the coup d'etat authored by the gendarmes of that country.

By the force of circumstances, the Gambian president has become obligated to the Senegalese Government. Henceforth, the mutual defense agreement of 1966 between the two neighboring countries will be invoked every time a domestic event in Gambia threatens the security and vital interests of Senegal.

Is this the beginning of an effective, lasting dependency? In the case of the Gambian president, how can he get out of it honorably? The recovery of his power thanks to Senegalese military assistance certainly involved conditions. Any support of this kind that ends up by putting a political leader in power or restoring one has to be paid for, sooner or later, in one way or another. This is and remains true throughout the world, even in Africa.

Resettled in his presidential residence in Banjul but scarcely recovered from the strong emotions of the abortive coup, Sir Jawara has every interest in seriously rethinking the application of a proposal he talked with us about 18 years ago.

Flashback

It was in 1963. Sir Jawara was Mr Jawara, prime minister of Gambia. I was minister plenipotentiary of the Congo (Kinshasa) (Zaire) in London. My Senegalese colleague at that time, Boissier-Palun, received Jawara at his residence on Portman Square. The conversation turned to the "fictitious" nation of Sene-Gambia. Would it be a confederation or a union of Senegal and Gambia?

Jawara, in full form, was convinced that he embodied his people's hope for liberation. He recognized the insurmountable difficulties in keeping Gambia truly independent of Senegal.

Not yet completely intoxicated by power, the honors, money and glory, he willingly agreed on a discussion -- theoretical and academic -- of a possible, even probable, Sene-Gambian federation, confederation or union. Before envisaging any political

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union whatsoever, it seemed to me desirable to consider the bilateral application of four principles: the free circulation of goods, capital, persons and services. That was my contribution, a modest one, but it was based on my 2-year experience at the headquarters of the European Common Market in Brussels.

Eighteen years later, Sir Jawara and the Gambian people will not be angry with us if we suggest that the creation of the Sene-Gambian nation "by phases" would be the best response to the brutal and tragic warning of the authors of the 30 July 1981 coup. It is not too late, but it is past time.

Guided Democracy

Gambia is a tiny nation 11,295 kilometers square with fewer than 600,000 inharitants. It is enough to look at a map to see that the country is bounded in the north by Senegal, in the east by Senegal, in the south by Senegal, and in the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

The very existence of Gambia results from the historical rivalry between France and Great Britain.

In power since 1962 -- that is, 3 years before his country's independence -- Sir Jawara is certainly tired.

All foreign observers agree that he is not a dictator. At any rate, he practices a "guided democracy" that is a mixture of paternalism, theoretical liberalism, tolerated corruption and parliamentary multipartyism.

In short, in Gambia as in most African nations, President Jawara practices the policy of survival that is scarcely recommended for avoiding the repetition of the tragic events of the beginning of August 1981.

The events obviously prove a deep discontent in the country. That the authors of the coup could get weapons, money, even a mobile radio transmitter, shows that they have substantial support in the country and perhaps abroad.

Their failure is essentially explained by the blunder they committed in presenting themselves as "Marxist-Leninists," "revolutionary socialists," the "creators of the dictatorship of the proletariat." This blunder indicates that the members of the ephemeral National Revolutionary Council and its leader, Kukli Samba Sanyang, are ill acquainted with the current international circumstances and, what is worse, do not know the geopolitical and diplomatic realities of the region. Moreover, they acted with haste, rushing the execution of their plan in order to take advantage of the departure of President Jawara for London.

Away from the presidential office for 4 days, from 29 July to 2 August, Sir Jawara regained power thanks to the Senegalese Army and the aid of a few Gambian police officers and gendarmes who remained loyal. Has he been careful to discuss future relations between the "saved" and the "saviors"? If not, he will soon discover that the aid he received is not pure brotherly charity. Brotherhood exists only between peoples; between governments, only interest counts.

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Has he been foresighted enough to talk with the Senegalese about a form of partner-ship that will spare both countries another drama?

Model

Each of the three formulas: federation, confederation or constitutional union, presents the advantage of being negotiable between two sovereign and independent states. If none is chosen, there remains one possibility: the annexation of Gambia by Senegal in order to safeguard the vital interests of the two countries and the two brother peoples.

Men make history. Who then is in a better position than Sir Jawara and President Dioui to make the historic decisions that could serve as a model and a precedent for the rest of Africa?

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GUINEA-BISSAU

NO SOLUTIONS SEEN FOR TROUBLED ECONOMY

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 4 Sep 81 pp 2257-2258

[Article by Hugues Viel: "Guinea-Bissau: Problematic Development"]

[Excerpts] With a foreign debt amounting to \$28 million—two—and—a—half times the amount of export earnings—to which must be added "arrears of a commercial nature" of \$7.5 million, it is easy to see that Guinea—Bissau is undergoing a cifficult period. It should be added that foreign exchange reserves have been exhausted and that possible donors are reluctant to replenish the state's coffers. In the meantime, the Guinea—Bissau bank manufactures some money and inflation goes galloping. As for the leaders, they do not explain the situation, but submit to it and turn to international organisms. Indeed, as a UN official said about Guinea—Bissau, "this country is a typical example of the inadequate response of the state services to a difficult economic situation." It could not be expressed in better terms.

It is true that at the time of independence, in September 1974, the country emerged very weakened from 10 years of guerrilla warfare. Of course, in the areas held by the rebels during the struggle, Amilcar Cabral had undertaken a series of efforts at development: hospitals had been established, elementary education had been reorganized and food crops had been encouraged. But the PAIGC leader was murdered in 1973 in Conakry by one of his followers. Perhaps this is the underlying, if not the immediate, cause for the bad turn the economy took at that time. This is possible, but it does not explain everything, and at any rate, it does not justify the blundering and simultaneously frantic collectivism that was established: creation of 3,600 "tabancas," or semi-communal villages regrouping practically all of the rural population; the establishment of "people's stores," of which it could be said, as in certain countries of the Eastern Bloc, that they were empty of goods and filled with employees to sell them; and finally the organization of a powerful state apparatus distributing incomprehensible and threatening directives to peasants thirsting for peace after 10 years of insecurity.

In reviewing the state budget, it can be seen that 75.6 percent of operating expenses are devoted to civil servants, who constitute a veritable army, and to the army proper which numbers 7,000 men equipped, it is true, by the Soviet Union which, in exchange, has established a base in the Bissagos Islands.

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The country of "rivers," as Guinea-Bissau has been called, does not lack agricultural resources: rice, peanuts, oil palms and a prosperous livestock industry on the slopes of the Fouta-Djalon. On top of that, there are 200 kms of coast-line rich in fishing resources. Nevertheless, the 800,000 inhabitants must receive annually substantial assistance to avoid malnutrition. In 1980, 45,000 tons of cereal were offloaded in Bissau....

The oft-occurring drought does not explain everything. There are two reasons for decreased productivity.

The first: in the face of the attitude of the central power, plethoric in numbers, inefficient in results and irritating in its interventions, a large part of agricultural products has "fled" the country in the direction, mainly, of Senegal. When the leaders speak about a return to a subsistance economy, they should refer to the "economy diluted by smuggling."

The second reason: the total inability of the state services to manage investment programs. And yet, large credits had been allocated for operations aimed at increasing agricultural production. Rice production only amounts to 920 kgs per hectare. Well, these credits have vanished and in 1978, for instance, for obscure reasons agriculture only received 6 percent of total investments.... The Guinean leaders are unable to expend the amounts allocated which had been duly scheduled for a particular operation.

In 1978, 54.6 percent of these amounts were used, while in 1981 the percentage fell to 51 percent. Curiously enough, it is Bissau—the capital—and the surrounding area, or, in other words, the state, that benefited the most from the 51 percent, resulting in a significant increase of the tertiary sector to the detriment of the primary one. Industry should not even be mentioned, since it has remained practically nonexistent.

It is undeniable that the crying need for competent cadres in budgetary management prevents the proper carrying out of the most elementary accounting procedures. This, in turn, results in the clogging of the weak "absorption capacity" of the Guinea-Bissau economy.

Contrary to the practice of other countries, the Cuinea-Bissau leaders have not established a 10-year plan that includes a certain number of projects. To be sure, they do mention projects—or rather prospects that have been viewed fof many years but have never been translated into figures—without having set up a program. On the other hand, the financing needed by the state in order to survive is duly specified for the next 5 years. What is really of concern in the attitude of this country's leaders is not so much the fact that they have overlooked the establishment of a long list of projects, but that they actually do not know what in-depth action to undertake to emerge from the rut.

To say, for instance, that "the PAIGC is a party of considerable international prestige," which, moreover, is "able to stimulate the people in relation to a process aimed at development" is not necessarily an advantage to pull the country out of the doldrums.... To refer to Amilcar Cabral's work—he had wanted to favor

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agriculture and related industries to make them into a pilot sector—is undoubtedly a deserved homage for the man who created the "Guinean nationality," but it will not solve the problem of the distribution network, among others.

Deplorably, one could search in vain for simple and clear ideas in the "10-year attitude" of the Guinea-Bissauan planners. Let us, therefore, only translate into numbers the expression of a certain confusion, if not of a certain disarray.

And first, the urgently needed assistance for the present year. It has been estimated at \$34\$ million and can be broken down as follows:

Direct aid to the balance of payments, 25 million: late financing, 7.5 million; recomposition of reserves, 11.5 million; financing the servicing of the public debt, 6 million; security stockpiling (rice), 9 million.

As for assistance during the period 1982-1985, it has been estimated at \$437 million, 62 percent of which will be devoted to the financing of a number of projects.

It should be noted that a sugar refinery project had been envisaged (60,000 tons per year). However, this project has been shelved for the time being. A modern fish canning complex is supposed to be built by the Soviets, who should also contribute to the modernization of the Bissau port. And of course, there is talk about the bauxite in the Boe hills (reserves are estimated at 200 to 300 million tons) that would be brought by railroad to the (future) port of Buba, but not much credence is attributed to this project.

Beyond these financial problems, the leaders of Guinea-Bissau still think of a linkage with Cape Verde. Talks are continuing, but this archipelago is also embroiled in serious difficulties and union seems to be far-off.

The new regime in power since last November points accusingly to the preceding one. This is the rule. But for a true recovery, the present leaders should resolve to act as reasonable managers rather than irrational ideologues.

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NIGER

BCEAO REPORT ON RECENT FACTORS IN ECONOMIC SITUATION

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1867, 21 Aug 81 p 2164

 $\sqrt{T} ext$ One of the latest economic and monetary statistics bulletins of the Central Bank of the West African States (BCEAO) was devoted to Niger.

The major agricultural crops marketed in the 1979-1980 campaign amounted to a total of 129,000 tons of food products (millet, beans and sorghum), an increase of 40,000 tons over the previous campaign, 3,428 tons of cottonseed (a decrease of 943 tons) and 2,172 tons of shelled peanuts (a decrease of 6,716 tons), representing a value of 5.4 billion CFA francs for food products (an increase of 2.1 billion), 0.2 billion for cottonseed and 0.2 billion for peanuts.

At the beginning of the current 1980-1981 campaign, the purchase price to the producer was raised from 40 to 50 CFA francs per kilo for millet and sorghum.

On 20 March 1981, peanut purchases in the 1980-1981 campaign totaled 1,543 tons of shelled peanuts (a decrease in comparison with the previous campaign).

For 1980, Somair and Cominak's uranium ore production amounted to 4,129 tons (an increase of 589 tons over 1979), sales amounting to about 3,205 tons.

During the first 8 months of 1980, Niamey's international airport recorded the movement of 3,503 commercial airplanes and passenger traffic involving the arrival and departure of 76,400 travelers.

During 1980, traffic on the Joint Benin-Niger Railroad and Transport Organization, as far as Niger was concerned, amounted to 124,000 tons (largely hydrocarbons) going up and 5,200 tons going down.

The commodity turnover index of the major commercial enterprises was established at 479 at the end of September 1980 as against 318.2 a year before (on the base of 100 determined as the average for the year 1970).

At the end of March 1981, the general consumer price index for the African family came out to 306.5 as against 263.8 at the end of March 1979 (the base of 100 retained for the year 1970). The increase was noticeable on local food products and on imported goods.

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The budget for the October 1980-September 1981 fiscal year was balanced at 80.6 billion CFA francs, an increase of 8.5 billion over the previous one). In receipts, taxes collected accounted for 59.5 billion CFA francs. Expenditures consisted of 26 billion in funds for equipment (no change), 19.1 billion for staff expenses (an increase of 0.8 billion) and 3.7 billion for debt servicing (an increase of 4.5 billion).

At the end of September 1980, duties and taxes levied by the customs service totaled 18.8 billion CFA francs, of which nearly 88 percent was from imports.

Foreign exchange statistics provided by the Nigerien administration go back to 1977, a year in which there was a trade balance deficit of 8.9 billion CFA francs (48.2 billion in imports and 39.3 billion in exports).

At the end of December 1980, the outstanding foreign debt had an exchange value of 86.4 billion CFA francs (an increase of 31.5 billion over the year). The available margin on funds obtained amounting to 90.1 billion (an increase of 37 billion over the end of 1979). In 1980, debt servicing--interest and amortization--absorbed 8.1 billion CFA francs (3.1 billion in 1979).

At the end of February 1981, notes and currency in circulation amounted to 35 billion CFA francs (an increase of 5.3 billion in a 12-month period). At the end of November 1980 the volume of current-account and fixed-term deposits in the banks and in Girocheques amounted to 45.1 billion CFA francs as against 37.2 billion at the end of December 1979.

In comparison, savings funds totaled 81.2 billion CFA francs (an increase of 23.7 billion over December 1979); two-thirds were used by the private sector and one-third by public undertakings.

In any event, at the end of November 1980, the Nigerien Treasury's net credit position at the local level was 6.1 billion CFA francs, 10.4 billion francs less than at the end of November 1979. As to the net position of the monetary institutions' foreign holdings, the excess in commitments, with an exchange value of 2.4 billion CFA francs at the end of November 1980, should be compared with assets of 13.6 billion CFA francs more at the end of December 1979. The imbalance comes essentially from the banks, which resorted to foreign assistance, while the Central Bank's holdings at the end of December 1980 represented additional assets of 21.6 billion CFA francs.

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NIGER

BRIEFS

ELIMINATION OF EPIDEMICS, ENDEMICS—According to a study of the governmental journal SAHEL HEBDO, devoted to the "health revolution" in Niger, this country is no longer experiencing epidemics of cholera or smallpox. Although some diseases, like measles, still make their appearance sporadically, the study indicates that they are "on the way to complete eradication." Endemic diseases, like Guinea worm, malaria and schistosomiasis, which during some periods of the year incapacitate tens of thousands of persons in the country, are also on the way to being overcome. These successes have been attained as a result of the setting up of considerable medical infrastructure throughout the country and large—scale vaccination campaigns. [Excerpt] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1869, 4 Sep 81 p 2278] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981]

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NIGERIA

PLANS FOR NEW CAPITAL OF ABUJA DESCRIBED

Paris NEW AFRICAN in English No 167, Aug 81 p 78

[Article by Robert Walsh: "Abuja: Makings of Africa's Most Beautiful Capital"]

[Text] Nigeria's new Federal capital, at the fork of the Niger and Benue, is gradually becoming a reality. President Shehu Shagari intends moving there from Lagos next year. Robert Walsh reports on progress.

IN DECEMBER 1975 a commission under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Aguda, which had been appointed less than six months before to advise on a location to replace Lagos as the Federal capital of Nigeria, delivered its report to the Federal Military Government.

A few months later the government announced its decision. The new Federal capital territory would comprise some 3,000 square miles almost in the middle of Nigeria – "centrality" had been the most important single factor – just south of the Emirate town of Abuja, founded in 1828 by Abuja (Abu the Red), son of the last Habe Emir of Zaria.

Hence the name Abuja has been firmly attached to the new capital, which is expected to house some 1.6-million people by the year 2000, and ultimately 3.2-million.

Recognised

The President has declared his intention of moving to the new capital next year – it is certain that many residents of Lagos will move with him – and the 1983 general election is to be run from there.

This emphasises the speed with which construction work has to be completed though it is recognised that it will take up to 20 years to complete the city as planned. Some of the contractors on site have established fully developed and serviced staff compounds for up to 200 families for their technical and supervisory staffs.

The master plan for Abuja, approved in 1979, envisages the city as basically crescent-shaped, with the residential areas fanning out from the city centra. The prize-winning design for the new city was presented by the distinguished Japanese architect Kenzo Tange.

The central area will contain the National Assembly, Federal and civic government offices, the offices of other national institutions, the principal commercial area of the city and major recreational facilities. There is also to be an arboretum, the trees of which will heighten the beauty of the city and complement Aso Hill.

Surrounding both the central and the residential areas of Abuja are a series of hills, and to some extent they have dictated the shape of the city. Some of the hills create distinct boundaries. These, it is hoped, will act as natural buffers against uncontrolled and undesirable development around the city in the future.

In the new capital will be a series of parks and open spaces, taking advantage of the existing river valleys – the territory is well watered – complete with tree-lined slopes.

The dense vegetation along the river channels is being kept both as a land-scape feature and also to help to prevent soil erosion. Great care is being taken in locating road crossings across the valleys, and also in aligning sewerage and drainage pipes alongside the rivers to reduce damage to the vegetation.

Abuja is being built in a number of phases. The first includes Federal Government buildings and other city centre facilities, together with the residential areas immediately to the north and south. These will have a total population of about 230,000.

Developing the new capital is going to be both lengthy and expensive. For example, there are some 50 kilometres of expressways to be built as well as many kilometres of local roads. Some 300 buildings of various types have yet to be built in the central area alone.

To give some sort of flavour of the scale of the operations, the next residential sector to be developed in Abuja is going to need something like 400 kilometres of drainage pipes to cope with rains, which can raise stream levels by nine feet in 30 minutes.

Big investments

So far the smallest contract awarded was worth N60-million. Just recently, the British consultant engineering practice Scott Wilson Fitzpatrick and Partners was awarded a contract for the final engineering design for the central area with a capital cost of N300-million.

Operations on this sort of scale will not only demand big investments from the firms involved, but will require new linkages between contractors of all sorts, a whole new range of joint ventures and some sophisticated new approaches to financing

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NIGERIA

PLANS FOR NEW PORT IN LAGOS DETAILED

Paris NEW AFRICAN in English No 167, Aug 81 pp 68, 72

[Text]

rock-hard in ships' holds during the three-month wait to enter ports. Nigerian businessmen were swindled by crooks taking advantage of the chaos, and they were forced to pay heavy demurrage fees to shipowners.

Congestion peaked in 1976-1977. But by then a huge port expansion scheme was underway. The past four years have seen a transformation in all ports, from Apapa in Lagos and Port Harcourt to the smaller ports of Warri, Sapele, Ogunu and Koko. All have undergone considerable enlargement and modernisation. Lagos has now a second port — Tin Can Island — which is on a par with most

In 1981, the NPA was hoping that its ports would see a through-put of about 40-million tons a year. In practice, however, this now looks optimistic. By 1978 the NPA has beaten the congestion problem. And in December of that year any danger of it returning for some time was firmly knocked on the head by the government's introduction of "M" forms.

The pink pieces of paper were a neat way of increasing the red tape involved in getting goods into the country. With "M" forms and a pre-shipment cargo inspection scheme, organised by the Swissbased Société Generale de Surveillance, imports dropped dramatically for most of 1979. This was just what the government wanted. It was part of a general policy to stop the economy becoming overheated.

Even this summer trade has still not got back to mid-1978 levels, and with the drop in world oil demand now settled in, the chances of Nigerian trade picking up in the short-to-medium term look slim. THE IRONY IS that as Nigeria settles to coping with problems of a world oil glut, with its depressing effect on national income and therefore trade, a vast new port complex is being studied under the country's Fourth National Development Plan

Dubbed the New Ocean Terminal, the blueprint sites it some way to the east of Lagos and pinpoints the cost at N300-million. The government, encouraged by the Nigerian Port Authority, has visions of cashing in on the steadily growing seaborne traffic to West Africa.

They're cautious

The new port would be the largest container port in the region. Container ships coming from Europe, the Far East and the US would unload there. Goods would then be transhipped in smaller vessels to neighbouring countries.

The New Ocean Terminal is at present very much pie in the sky, but cautious initial planning suggests that the government does not wish to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Nigeria was wholly unprepared for the huge trade boom created by the quadrupling of world oil prices in 1974. As a major oil producer, Nigeria benefited. But the resultant congestion of imported goods at outdated ports will never be forgotten.

Heavy fees

Millions of nairas-worth of goods were damaged, stolen, lost or had to be abandoned – like the cement which went

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But when the upturn does occur, as it surely will, the NPA will have a string of modern ports to meet the upsurge, including, it is hoped, the new super port

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NIGERIA

BRIEFS

BORDER FENCE--Nigeria is now proceeding to put in a system to reinforce its borders by means of an impenetrable fence 5 meters high all along them. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 4 Sep 81 p 2279] COPYRICHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981.

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SENEGAL

BRIEFS

CISSOKO ON FRENCH RELATIONS--Renegotiation of the Franco-Senegalese cooperation agreements and evacuation of the French military bases in Senegal were demanded by Seydou Cissoko, secretary general of the Independence and Labor Party (PIT, Marxist-Leninist, pro-Soviet), following the constituent congress of that party which took place in Dakar at the beginning of August. Mr. Cissoko, who returned from the Soviet Union where he had been undergoing treatment for 7 years, felt that a renegotiation of the Franco-Senegalese agreements was now possible with the participation of Communist ministers in the French Socialist Government. PIT, which is one of Senegal's 10 legal political parties, was the result of a split within the former African Independence Party (PAI, established in 1957). Another party, which also claims to be inspired by "scientific socialism," and which was set up by Majmouth Diop, continues to bear this name. /Text/ Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1867 21 Aug 81 p 21587 /COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981/ 9434

RND SUPPORT OF SENEGAMBIA--A second Senegalese opposition party has just spoken in favor of union with Gambia. Indeed, following the Senegalese Republican Movement (see MTM of 14 August 1981, p 2105), the Democratic National Rally (RND) indicated, on 13 August, that "the future of Gambia lies in a federation with Senegal on the basis of free determination." This point of view was developed by its secretary general, Sheik Anta Diop, during a press conference, the first since the recognition of the party on last 18 June. Mr Diop, whose party condemned the intervention of Senegalese troops in Gambia in a communique, but without signing a joint statement by seven Senegalese opposition parties on the events in Banjul, stated that RND condemned the use of force in any form whatsoever. Text Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1867 21 Aug 81 p 2158 COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981/9434

SAR EXPANSION--The African Refining Company has just entrusted Heurtey Industries with the expansion of the M'Bao refining plant near Dakar. This contract, calling for turnkey construction, which is the outcome of sustained competition and a basic study carried out by Heurtey Industries, includes studies, supplies, construction and assistance in starting up operations. It includes the following installations: extension of atmospheric distillation units (increase in capacity from 900,000 tons to 1,380,000 tons per year, in catalytic reforming and hydrotreating (increase in capacity from 14 m 3 /h to 19 m 3 /h); modification of storage facilities, auxiliary and general services; diesel oil desulphurization unit, IFP /expansion unknown/process (capacity 210,000 tons per year); kerosene-based Merox

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unit, UOP /expansion unknown/ process (capacity 215,000 tons per_year)._ The deadline for completion of the plant as a whole is 23 months. /Text/ /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French To 1867 21 Aug 81 p 21587 /COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981/

LAYING OF ISRA FOUNDATION STONE--On 8 August at Saint-Louis, Jacques Diouf, the Senegalese secretary of state for scientific and technical research, laid the first stone of the future headquarters of the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (ISRA), which will be transferred from Dakar to the river region's chief town. According to Jacques Diouf, this transfer, which is a result of the government's wish to revive Saint-Louis, will make it possible, starting with the Diama and Manatali dams, to establish agricultural development on solid scientific bases. It will also facilitate interaction between ISRA and Gaston Berger University's Faculty of Economic and Juridical Sciences. In his speech, the minister praised the outlays agreed to for execution of the project by the Senegalese state in its equipment budget and out of ISRA's own funds, as well as those of countries friendly to Senegal, such as the United States of America, through USAID, the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology, and lastly France. /Text//Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1867 21 Aug 81 p 21597 /COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 19817 9434

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SIERRA LEONE

LOOTING, VIOLENCE REPORTED IN MAKENI

AB191210 London REUTER in English 0903 GMT 19 Sep 81

[Text] Freetown, Sierra Leone, 19 Sep (REUTER)—Looting and violence broke out in the northern provincial capital of Makeni after a visit by President Siaka Stevens, travellers arriving from the area said today.

Hundreds of workers and teachers rampaged through the streets of the town of 45,000 people yesterday. Shops were looted and all local services brought to a halt.

The town could not be reached by telephone and it was not clear early today whether order had been restored.

The travellers said a senior official who went to the area was unable to enter the town and turned back after rioters ripped the flag staff off his official car.

There was no word of casualties or arrests and police in the capital declined to comment on the situation.

Travellers said the teachers were protesting at the decision by the Northern Provinces Teachers Association not to have anything to do with a general strike called on September 1.

The Sierra Leone Labour Congress called its 250,000 members out on strike to press demands for economic reforms, including food price cuts and better housing.

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UGANDA

OAU URGED TO REVIEW ITS OWN CHARTER, END COUNTRY'S TERROR

Paris NEW AFRICAN in English No 167, Aug 81 p 5

[Editorial: "Uganda in Torment: A Re-Think Necessary If It's To Be Healed"]

[Text]

The wave of violence in Uganda, in which the lack of law and order has thrown the country into near-anarchy, demands immediate remedial action. It is now seven months since Dr Milton Obote assumed power via an election still thought, in some circles at any rate, to have been rigged.

As is the wont of many a new administration, Obote returned on a platform of peace and unity. He extended sentiments of reconciliation to his rivals, whom he invited to help re-build the nation battered for a decade by one calamity after another.

But the early promise of goodwill to all men soon faded. Opposition quickly turned to violence. The fledgling Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA), in concert with the Tanzanian peacekeeping force, warmed to their task. Reports started filtering out of the soldiers' excesses, particularly of the ill-trained UNLA. Government money was short; some Ugandan soldiers were not paid for weeks on end and turned to make up their pay with a campaign of looting, destruction and intimidation, leaving in its wake hundreds of civilian dead.

One school of thought believes that Obote is himself a prisoner of the unmitigating circumstances facing Uganda; that he can do nothing but "stay in line" while turning the proverbial blind eye to the excesses of the army. Further, that Obote can remain secure in power only if he does not irritate his real power base—the army. It is noteworthy that the country's new Parliament has two military officers.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of this assessment, it is clear that despite government knowledge of well-documented acts of abuse of power by the army, Obote has only admitted a measure of "misbehaviour" on their part.

It would, of course, be misleading to suggest that the present leadership is responsible for all the problems facing Uganda today. We are reminded of the unlamented despot Idi Amin Dada, who during his nine-year reign of terror reduced Uganda's economy to

chaos. Ironically, it was Amin, then generally seen as the "liberator" of the Ugandan people, who ended Obote's tempestuous first presidency.

It is sad that the problems of Uganda did not feature during the recent summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Kenya. We can, of course, pre-empt the explanation of this. Custodians of the organisation's charter have, over the years, been quick to point out that its principles expressly forbid memberstates from interfering in the internal affairs of other members.

But, if the OAU could express an opinion – to say no more – on Chad, where there was a strong foreign involvement (Libyan? French?) in the faction fighting, could they not have done so in Uganda's case? Is there not an urgent need to end the long-range terror campaign of Amin, conducted from his reported refuge among his Saudi co-religionists?

It is no good for the OAU to shy away from such crucial issues in Africa. In the past such diffidence has had the effect of passing our problems to foreign, often Western powers. Is this not the neo-colonialism the organisation is supposed to fight?

The issue is of such immense importance, we feel, that a call for the revision of the OAU's Charter should also be made in tandem. It is imperative that the organisation move away from the "toothless bulldog" image. After all, the era of the independence euphoria of the late 1950s and 1960s has long passed.

Clearly the Charter's principles, largely representative of the aspirations of that time, now fail to reflect the new mood of African thinking. The late American civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr. used to argue that a man dies at 36, if at that age he ceases stops to believe in, reconcile and fight for his principles, even though he lives on to be 60 years old. The OAU will have died prematurely at 18 years if it is not prepared to come to grips with realities now.

Though the introduction of an African peacekeeping force would have been the best short-term solution while the politicians sorted out the mess, we feel that the current chairman ought to take up the matter.

For their part, the authorities in Uganda must be seen to make a genuine effort to stamp out the rampant abuse of power which has percolated most echelons of government, if they hope to regain the confidence of the people. Most important is the government's control of the armed forces, whatever the hazards.

Maintaining law and order will become even more difficult with the withdrawal of Tanzanian troops, for long the only credible stabilising force in the country. Though the obvious economic burden must feature prominently in the decision of President Nyerere of Tanzania to pull out, others feel that the Tanzanians no longer want to be identified with the excesses of the Ugandan soldier.

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It is important to note that the problems facing Uganda are also facing many other African countries, though not necessarily of the same magnitude. A plan must be devised for a collective solution. Africa can no longer afford to think in prose and talk in verse

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ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

COAL DEPOSITS -- The Zambian minister of mines, Mufaya Mumbana, stated on 30 July that the discovery of a large coal deposit near the Kafue national park was imminent. He stated that the Zambian geological research department was at that time in the process of verifying the existence of a deposit extending from Lalafuta in the north to Machili in the south. /Text//Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1867 21 Aug 81 p 21747 / COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981/ 9434

PURCHAGE OF RAILROAD CARS--The Zambian minister of transport and communications, Rajah Kunda, stated at the beginning of August that Zambia intended to buy, in Zimbabwe, 235 freight cars which would be used on behalf of Zambia on the Benguela railroad which links Zambia with the port of Lobito through Angolan territory. The funds that will be used to buy these freight cars will be provided by the European Economic Community. /Text//Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1867 21 Aug 81 p 2174//COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981/9434

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